COVID-19 CONSTITUENT RESOURCES TOOLKIT
Montgomery County, MD

Originally produced and distributed by the Office of Councilmember Craig Rice

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Click on the blue underlined links to go to referenced websites.

HEALTH & SAFETY

State Orders & Best Practices

- **Stay at Home Order** - Per the [Governor's order](#) (March 30), all Marylanders are ordered to stay home to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The only exceptions are for "essential activities" as defined in his order. Essential activities include picking up groceries or meals from restaurants, caring for family or friends, medical care, and other important, critical needs.
- **Face Covering Requirement** - Per the Governor's Order (and previously from the Montgomery County Health Officer), individuals are required to wear a face covering while shopping at grocery stores, pharmacies, farmers markets, and big box retailers as well as when riding on public transportation.
  - A face covering can be a homemade cloth mask, a scarf or bandana, or other means of snugly covering the mouth and nose.
  - Although there is no civil or criminal penalty for shoppers, businesses have the right to turn away customers.
  - The order also requires businesses to enforce capacity limits in a store at any given time. Businesses must provide face coverings to employees, whether the employees interact with customers or not.
- **Recommendation:** Maintain the **6 – 20 – 100**
  - **6 feet** apart from other people to maintain physical distancing
  - **20 seconds** to wash your hands with soap and water
  - **100 degrees** in the body temperature that individuals should stay home with.
- **Updates on COVID-19** in Montgomery County can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposures

- Follow these [guidelines](#) if you are sick.
- Online COVID-19 Self-Assessments are available at:
  - [Adventist HealthCare](#)
  - [Holy Cross Health](#)
  - [MedStar Health](#)
- Stay away from others when you are sick and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Only visit an Emergency Room if your doctor has ordered you to.
- If insured, please contact your primary care doctor or insurance provider. Your provider will coordinate any testing if appropriate.
- The White Oak Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) site is providing drive-through COVID-19 testing on an appointment-only basis to residents who are symptomatic and at high risk for complications from COVID-19. Patients must have a healthcare provider order and an appointment in order to be tested. Do not show up at this site if your healthcare provider has not provided you with a testing order and an appointment time.

Medical & Wellbeing Assistance & Information

- [**Maryland Health Connection**](#) has launched a special enrollment period until June 15 for currently uninsured Marylanders. Make sure to follow the link to the state website (.gov).
- If you are a County resident not eligible for federal or state health programs, Montgomery County has health care programs for you and your family.
  - **Care for Kids** – if you have a child 19 or younger requiring health care services, please contact the Office of Eligibility and Support Services. The applications website is available at [this link](#). Clients can email OESS.MoCo@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-1003 to enroll.
  - **Maternity Partnership** – if you are a pregnant woman needing prenatal care, please contact the Office of Eligibility and Support Services. The applications website is available [here.](#) Clients can also email OESS.MoCo@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-1003 to enroll.

- o **Montgomery Cares** – if you are an adult 18 or older needing health care services, you can identify a clinic of your choice via the link. Eligibility can be completed at the clinic site or through the Office of Eligibility and Support Services. During the COVID-19 period, clinics are not taking walk-in patients. Anyone interested in services must call the clinic to be assessed over the phone.
- Medical and Mental Health Services – the Maryland Governor has authorized telemedicine (via telephone) to encourage efficient, responsive, and safe methods of care.
- **Veterans** – The Veterans Administration has stated they will see and treat any Veteran even if not yet enrolled in VA health care. Please call first: Washington DC VA Medical Center at 202-745-8000, option 3.
- **Special Hotlines**:
  - o Chinese Language COVID information Line, daily, 9am-6pm – 301-798-6001
       CCACC-Pan Asian Volunteer hotline for all questions related to COVID-19
- **Mental Wellbeing** - For those struggling to cope with anxiety, stress, and other mental health issues, **EveryMind** has resources available as well as specialists if you need to talk to someone. Call or text 301-738-2255.
- **Domestic Violence Assistance:** For free, confidential help on weekdays from 8:30am-5:00pm, contact either
  - o The **Family Justice Center** at 240-773-0444 (Weekdays from 8:30am-5:00pm)
  - o Montgomery County's **Abused Persons Program** at 240-777-4195
  - o For 24-hour assistance, call the **Montgomery County Crisis Center** at 240-777-4000
  - o **JCADA** provides free support to victims of power-based violence. Email jcada@jccada.org or call the free and confidential helpline at 1-877-885-2232

Sick Leave

- **Paid Sick and Family Sick Leave** (CARES Act)– Some individuals may be eligible to receive two weeks of paid sick leave if unable to work due to quarantine, experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or caretaking responsibilities. For more information, go to: Employee Paid Leave Rights

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Food

- A comprehensive list of **food resources** can be found at Montgomery County Food Council's website.
- Also see the sections below on **Education and Children** for school meals distribution locations and Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities for other resources.
- **Organizations offering food distribution for those needing assistance include:**
    - Manna Food Center**: 301-424-1130**
      Call to make an appointment by 3:00pm the day before you want to pick up; multiple distribution sites have been established throughout county
    - Nourish Now**: 301-330-0222**
      Please call ahead
      1111 Taft Street, Rockville
    - Catholic Charities Choice Food Pantry**: 301-942-1790**
      Please call ahead12247 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring
    - Adventist Community Services**: 301-585-6556**
      Call in advance for an appointment
      501 Sligo Avenue, Silver Spring
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) -** more commonly known as food stamps, ensures that Americans receive the food they need, especially if newly unemployed. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved Maryland's request to issue emergency SNAP payments to currently enrolled households for April and May 2020. This means residents who receive SNAP benefits will receive the maximum amount allowed per month from April 1 through May 31. To apply online, go to:
  https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardclient/#/dssMap or call 240-777-1003.
  Maryland Hunger Solutions offers SNAP application assistance by phone at 1-866-821-5552.
- **WIC** - The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) provides access to nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women or mothers. Contact the Montgomery County WIC office at 301-762-9426.
- **Diapers and Baby Supplies** – Enter a zip code to find local providers through the Greater DC Diaper Bank.
    - **Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington** is a local hub for the DC Diaper Bank. Others will be added shortly. Contact ACSGW at 301-585-6556.
- **Food Opportunities from Other Organizations:**
    - **Silver Diner Rio**, Monday through Friday, 2pm until supplies last
      236 Boardwalk Place, Gaithersburg, MD
      Families in need may stop by to pick up a free grab-and-go meal, no questions asked. No ID required.
      www.realfoodforkids.org/chefsfeedingfamilies
    - **Jimmy Johns** (523 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg and 19847 Century Blvd, Germantown) are offering $1 meals to elementary and middle school students between 11am-1pm while schools are closed.
- **Farm Produce and Seafood**
  For farmers and seafood companies doing direct sales to customers to replace closed markets, go to the interactive map

Housing

- Currently, there is a temporary eviction moratorium in place in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland. The moratorium prohibits landlords from physically removing renters from their homes for any reason. Evictions also may not happen without an eviction order, which cannot occur as long as Maryland courts are closed.

Maryland courts are currently [closed through May 1](). Housing inspectors and Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) have suspended all inspections.

- [Montgomery County's DHCA Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs]() recommends that tenants experiencing financial distress contact their landlord to discuss their situation and possible payment arrangements. Residents with questions or concerns also are invited to contact the County's Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs directly by calling 311 or 240-777-0311 if dialing from outside of Montgomery County, submitting an [online request](), or emailing [olta.intake@montgomerycountymd.gov]().

- **Monthly Bills** (Rent, Mortgage, Credit Cards): You are encouraged to contact your bill providers and request to defer payment. Many are working with customers at this time.
    - **[Information]() for renters.**
    - **Mortgage Forbearance:** Homeowners with FHA, USDA, VA, or Section 184 or 184A mortgages (for members of federally-recognized tribes) and those with mortgages backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac have the right to request forbearance on their payments for up to 6 months, with a possible extension for another 6 months without fees, penalties, or extra interest. Homeowners should contact their mortgage servicing company directly. Forbearance postpones your payments; it does not erase the amount you owe.
    - **Emergency Housing and Rental Assistance:** Contact Montgomery County's [Department of Health and Human Services]().
    - **For Landlords –** Montgomery County guidance can be found [here]().

Financial Assistance

- **Montgomery County-** The Council approved a [special appropriation]() of $5 million in financial assistance to residents. More information will be posted once the system for disbursement is created.
- To apply online for Temporary Cash Assistance, Temporary Disability Assistance Program, or the Food Supplement Program, go to the [Maryland State website]().
- **Federal Stimulus Assistance to Individuals** (CARES Act) - Individuals must have a Social Security Number for themselves and their qualifying children to receive payments.
    - Individuals making up to $75,000 ($150,000 for married workers) will receive payments of $1,200 with an additional $500 payment per minor child. The payments decrease ratably and stop altogether for single workers making more than $99,000 ($198,000 for married workers and $218,000 for a family of four.)
    - These payments will be issued by the IRS via direct deposit and will be based on 2019 or 2018 tax return or 2019 Social Security statement.
    - If someone has not filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019 and does not receive Social Security benefits, the IRS recommends filing a 2018 return to receive payment. If the IRS does not have the taxpayer's bank account information, the taxpayer should look for a letter from the IRS detailing how to receive their payment.
    - If you receive Social Security, retirement or other social safety net benefits, you may still qualify for direct payments. These payments will not be taxable nor represent "resources" for program eligibility purposes. Click here for more information from the IRS.

Utilities (Water, Gas, Electric)

- Per the Maryland Governor's order, utilities (water, gas, electric) are prohibited from shutting off services or charging late fees. Many utilities will work on with each customer on future payment arrangements.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):** [https://dhr.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/]() or 1-800-332-6347
- **Tap Water:** Don't fall victim to scammers trying to sell you water filters. COVID-19 is not detected in water and not transmitted by water. **Your tap water is safe.**

Additional Resources to Stay Connected

- **Info Montgomery** has more information on numerous private and nonprofit resources throughout the county on their website or call 311
- **Montgomery County Health and Human Services** is open to serve residents:
- **Comcast** has opened the **Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots** nationally for free. Enable by selecting "xfinitywifi".
- **Internet Essentials** – Comcast is providing 2 months of free service to new customers who apply by April 30. This service is available to qualified low-income households. Allow 5-7 days to receive installation kit. Low cost computers are also available through this program. To apply, go to https://www.internetessentials.com/ or call 1-855-846-8376
- **Montgomery County Public Libraries** offers Digital Library Cards so you can check out digital e-books and access other online services. The MCPL Ask a Librarian Service is available at 240-777-0001. Leave a voicemail and it will be returned within 2 days.
- **Immigrant Resources** – Visit the Charles W. Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center for assistance.

JOB/EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Job Opportunities

- COVID-19 has resulted in different job opportunities, mainly with essential businesses. Companies currently hiring include: 7-Eleven, Amazon, Domino's, Costco, Giant Foods, Safeway, Weis, Walmart, Adventist HealthCare, AKAL Security (for BWI Airport), and more. Some are temporary in support of COVID-19 operations.
- **To search for job openings**:
  - Visit WorkSource Montgomery for updated local opportunities.
  - Visit the Maryland Workforce Exchange. Click on "Find a Job" a bottom of webpage and enter the area to search.
  - Use Indeed.com or Monster.com. Tip: Search for the most recent job postings.

Unemployment Benefits

- The Unemployment Insurance (UI) program pays benefits to workers who have lost their job through no fault of their own and meet the program's eligibility requirements. If you have become unemployed, you may file a claim via the Internet with the Maryland Department of Labor or by telephone by using one of the telephone numbers listed on the Unemployment Insurance home page under "Claim Center Telephone Numbers".
- Through the Federal CARES Act**,** unemployment benefits have been expanded to:
  1. Provide an additional $600 per week on top of normal state unemployment benefits through July 31
  2. Provide an additional 13 weeks of benefits
  3. Provide unemployment benefits to workers not typically eligible (self-employed, independent contractors, gig workers) for a maximum of 39 weeks
- The Maryland Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance call center hours are 7:00am to 6:00pm at 410-949-0022. Please note that due to high volume, you will experience unusually long wait times. To assist with the volume of applicants, please see info for which day to file according to your last name. You are strongly encouraged to file online during non-peak hours.

  - If your last name starts with A - F, file your claim on Monday.
  - If your last name starts with G - N, file your claim on Tuesday.
  - If your last name starts with O - Z, file your claim on Wednesday.
  - Claim filing is open to all last names by phone on Thursday and Friday and online Thursday through Sunday.
  - Filing later in the week will not delay your payments or affect the date of your claim.

- **Self-employed, independent contractors, gig workers,** and **workers with insufficient work history** will be able to file for unemployment benefits as soon as the system can be implemented. Please do not apply until the Maryland Department of Labor has set up the process. Once up and running, benefits will be provided back to the earliest date of eligibility. Go here for more info.
- Current and new unemployment insurance benefit recipients are exempt from the requirement to actively seek work for a 10-week period beginning the week of March 20.
- For specific questions about disputed unemployment benefit claims, email ui.disqualifiedclaims@maryland.gov

Economic Impact Payments

- Eligible taxpayers will receive Economic Impact Payments of up to $1,200 for individuals and $2,400 for married couples and up to $500 for each qualifying child.
- Payments will be automatically distributed via direct deposit to your bank account. If the IRS does not have your banking information, go to irs.gov/eip for the online tool where you can enter your information.
- Please do not call the IRS. For more information, go to: https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus

EDUCATION & CHILDREN

School Meals

- MCPS Grab-and-Go Bags are being distributed Monday through Friday – 11am to 1pm at 50 locations in Montgomery County. Weekend Smart Sacks are also being distributed at select locations on Fridays. Drive up or walk to the location.
- **SCHEDULE CHANGE BEGINNING THE WEEK OF <u>APRIL 20</u> – No distributions on Thursdays (starting 4/23)**
    - o **Mondays – Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner (1 day)**
    - o **Tuesdays – Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner (1 day)**
    - o **Wednesdays – Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner (for 2 days)**
    - o **Thursdays – Meal sites closed to limit contact and support meal production**
    - o **Fridays – Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner (1 day) PLUS Manna Weekend Food Bags**
- School buildings are not open. Meals are dispensed via refrigerated trucks outside each location.

Childcare

- Designated essential personnel working in response to the COVID-19 pandemic who require childcare are immediately able to obtain state-funded childcare programs at no cost. For questions, contact MSDE child care referral specialists at 877-261-0060.
- Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has ordered all childcare providers except those serving essential personnel to close.

Montgomery County Public Schools

- The State of Maryland has ordered all schools to remain closed through May 15.
- MCPS is regularly updating their website with activities and resources as well as learning plans and information on the distribution of Chromebooks as needed.
- SAT – the College Board has canceled the March 28, May 2, and June 6 SAT and Subject Tests. Students will receive a refund. New testing opportunities include adding one in September.
- ACT - ACT has rescheduled its April 4 national test date to June 13. All students registered for the April 4 test date will receive an email from ACT providing instructions for free rescheduling to a future test date.
- AP Testing - For the 2019–20 exam administration only, students can take a 45-minute online free-response exam at home.

Higher Education

- **Montgomery College/USG/UMD:** Classes are being conducted online. Students should check emails regularly for instructions from their professors as well as for information on assistance being offered by the institution to help students throughout this crisis.
- **Student Loans** and **Federal Work-Study:** Click here. Relief for Federal student loan borrowers includes waiving interest and pausing loan payments for a certain period.

SENIORS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Connection

- **Senior Call Check –** Call 1-866-502-0560 or register online   to receive a daily call to verify well-being of participant. Any Maryland resident of 65 years or older can participate in this free program.
- **Social Connection – Empowering the Age's Sharing Smiles** connects adults to youth in response to social isolation from COVID-19.
- **Virtual Events – Senior Planet** offers free virtual events for seniors at https://seniorplanet.org/coronavirus/
- **Transportation** - Various options are available for those customers with no signs of illness. Please use only for essential travel.
    - For details on MetroAccess, call 301-562-5360 or visit here.
    - Call-n-Ride Discounted Taxi, call 301-948-5409
    - Senior Connection **–** 301.962.0820 or visit here.
- **Montgomery County Resources for Older Adults:** Click here.

Food Assistance

- **Dedicated Shopping Hours for Seniors** - Grocery stores, including Giant, Safeway, Whole Foods, and Target are offering dedicated shopping hours for seniors and vulnerable individuals (immune suppressed), typically the first hour each day. Click here for a list of stores and hours.
- **Montgomery County Senior Nutrition Program** – for ages 60 and over, spouse of adult age 60 and over, and disabled residents. For info on weekly frozen meal delivery and registration info, click here.
  Due to rapidly increasing demand, service cannot be guaranteed to everyone at this time. If capacity is exceeded, names will be placed on a waiting list. Individuals interested in learning more about the food delivery, the grab and go locations, and to register for the meal program can contact the Senior Center nearest them:
    - **Damascus Senior Center**
      Tony Edghill   240-535-0732   Anthony.edghill@montgomerycountymd.gov
    - **Holiday Park Senior Center, Silver Spring**
      Dolors Ustrell-Roig   240-460-2236   Dolors.Ustrell@montgomerycountymd.gov
    - **Long Branch Senior Center, Silver Spring**
      Mary Pelz   301-332-4451   Mary.Pelz@montgomerycountymd.gov
    - **Schweinhaut Senior Center, Silver Spring**
      Karen Maxin   240-805-3712   Karen.maxin@montgomerycountymd.gov
    - **North Potomac Senior Center, Rockvlle**
      Sheila Hall   202-450-8057   Sheila.hall@montgomerycountymd.gov
    - **Wheaton Senior Center**
      Alex Alcon   202-760-1003   Alejandro.alcon@montgomerycountymd.gov
    - **White Oak Senior Center, Silver Spring**
      TeAnna Abraham   240-678-5696   TeAnna.Abraham@montgomerycountymd.gov
- **Food Resources and Meal Delivery** – Click here for a continually updated list of resources to include grocery assistance.

BUSINESS & NONPROFIT ASSISTANCE

County Assistance

On March 31st, the Montgomery County Council approved an emergency grant program and $20 million in funding for small businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19. The programs are as follows:

- Emergency Assistance Funding has been approved. Click here for updates.
  - **Public Health Emergency Grant (PHEG) Program** – Montgomery County businesses and nonprofits with 100 employees (FTE) or less are eligible for grants up to $75,000 with micro-grants of up to $2,500 for teleworking technology. Visit the PHEG webpage for information and in order to complete the application. The application was opened on April 15. Informational sessions are being held April 15-18 and April 20-24 at 9am through Zoom or livestreamed.
  - **COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Funding –** Montgomery County nonprofits providing safety net services for vulnerable residents are encouraged to apply when the application becomes available.
- Local health care providers in need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may complete the online Emergency Medical Material Request Form. PPE allocations are based on limited availability.

State Assistance

- The **State of Maryland** has announced several programs to assist businesses.
  - **Maryland Department of Labor**
    - Layoff Aversion Fund – 3/30 update: no longer accepting applications
  - **Maryland Department of Commerce**: 4/7 update: no longer accepting applications
    - Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Fund
    - Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund
    - Maryland COVID-19 Emergency Relief Manufacturing Fund
- **Small Business Administration** (SBA) Disaster Loan Assistance is now available for Montgomery County businesses.
- **State Tax Information**
  - The State Comptroller has announced businesses can defer state tax payments to July 15.
  - April Sales and Use Tax in not due until June 1

Federal Assistance

- **Small Business Administration –** Information on these programs can be found here.
  - **Paycheck Protection Program -** An SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.
  - **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Emergency Advance -** This loan advance will provide up to $10,000 of economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties.
  - **SBA Express Bridge Loan -** allows small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to $25,000 quickly.
  - **SBA Debt Relief -** The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Measures

- **Alcoholic Beverages To-Go** - The Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners has approved a resolution to allow restaurants to sell beer, wine and spirits to-go during this emergency shutdown. Businesses must apply for approval. For additional information and for how to apply, click here.

- **Face Covering Requirement** - Per the Montgomery County Health Officer, shoppers are required to wear a face covering while shopping at grocery stores, pharmacies, farmers markets, and big box retailers. A face covering can be a homemade cloth mask, a scarf or bandana, or other means of snugly covering the mouth and nose. Although there is no civil or criminal penalty for shoppers, businesses have the right to turn away customers. The order also requires businesses to enforce capacity limits in a store at any given time. Businesses must provide face coverings to employees, whether the employees interact with customers or not.
- **Self-employed, independent contractors, gig workers,** and **workers with insufficient work history** will be able to file for unemployment benefits as soon as the system can be implemented. Please do not apply until the Maryland Department of Labor has set up the process. Once up and running, benefits will be provided back to the earliest date of eligibility. Go here for more info.
- **Business-related Tax Filing Deadlines:** (Update April 14) A new extension to July 15th applies to certain business returns with due dates during the months of February, March, April, and May 2020 for businesses filing sales and use tax, withholding tax, and admissions & amusement tax, as well as alcohol, tobacco and motor fuel excise taxes, tire recycling fee and bay restoration fee returns.
    - The deadline for June payments of the alcohol tax and admissions & amusement tax, which are due on the 10th day of the month, have also been extended to July 15.
    - Business taxpayers who file and pay by the extended due date will receive a waiver of interest and penalties.
    - Businesses that have already submitted April SUT may request a refund of their payment by emailing taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov

Additional Resources for Businesses and NonProfit Organizations
- Maryland Business Relief Wizard – an online tool to help find the right COVID-19 resources for your business
- Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Maryland Business Express
- NonProfit Montgomery

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SERVICES

Closures

- Per the Governor's March 23 order, all non-essential businesses and establishments must close. For a list of essential businesses which are not required to close, click here.
- Indoor Park Facilities, Libraries, Senior Centers, Recreation Centers, Aquatic Centers, Movie Theaters, Gyms, Shopping Malls, Entertainment Venues are closed.
  - **Montgomery Parks**
    - Tennis and pickleball courts are closed
    - Use of playgrounds is prohibited
    - Call programming, classes, and events taking place in parks and park facilities are canceled.
    - Please avoid large groups and/or sports gatherings.
    - Please observe 6-foot physical distancing when using trails.
- An updated list of local government facility closures and service modifications can be found at here.

Temporary Restrictions/Waivers/Suspensions

- Under the State of Emergency, vehicles displaying **expired handicapped permits** are not to be towed. Permits will remain valid at least 30 days after the emergency has ended.
- Under the State of Emergency, the expiration date of **driver's licenses, learner permits, vehicle registrations, and professional licenses** issued by the State of Maryland is extended to the 30th day after the date by which the State of Emergency is rescinded.
- Under the State of Emergency, **no electric, gas, sewage disposal, telegraph, telephone, water, cable television provider, or internet service provider** shall terminate service to a residence nor charge a late fee for payment due from March 16 until May 1.

Essential Services/Modified Services

- **Montgomery County Map of Essential Services:** The Ride On map shows current bus service, pharmacies, grocery stores, dialysis clinics, hospitals, and MCPS food distribution sites in the county.
- **Grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and gas stations** are among the essential businesses that will remain open and will be resupplied. Hours of operation have been decreased to allow for cleaning and restocking. Check before going. Note that many deliver but have been overwhelmed by orders.
  - **Face Covering Requirement** - Per the Montgomery County Health Officer, shoppers are required to wear a face covering while shopping at grocery stores, pharmacies, farmers markets, and big box retailers. A face covering can be a homemade cloth mask, a scarf or bandana, or other means of snugly covering the mouth and nose. Although there is no civil or criminal penalty for shoppers, businesses have the right to turn away customers. The order also requires businesses to enforce capacity limits in a store at any given time. Businesses must provide face coverings to employees, whether the employees interact with customers or not.
  - **Dedicated Shopping Hours for Seniors** - Grocery stores, including Giant, Safeway, Whole Foods, and Target are offering dedicated shopping hours for seniors and vulnerable individuals (immune suppressed), typically the first hour each day. For a list of stores and hours, click here.
- **Restaurants and Bars** are open for carry-out and drive-through only; no eat-in customers. Click here for the MoCoEats directory of Montgomery County restaurants who provide take-out and/or delivery service.
  - The Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners has approved a resolution to allow restaurants to sell beer, wine and spirits to-go during this emergency shutdown. Businesses must apply for approval. For additional information and for how to apply, click here.
- The **US Postal Service** is an essential service and is open.
- Maryland courts are currently closed. The courts will hear certain types of emergency matters to include peace or protective orders.

- o Circuit Court information
- **Montgomery County Public Libraries** offers Digital Library Cards so you can check out digital e-books and access other online services. The MCPL Ask a Librarian Service is available at 240-777-0001. Leave a voicemail and it will be returned within 2 days.
- **Trash/Recycling/Transfer Station**
  - o **Shady Grove Transfer Station** hours are now 9am-5pm, 7 days per week to accommodate one shift of staff. The Poolesville Beauty spot is open Saturdays only, 7am to 3pm
  - o Bring proof of Montgomery County residency. Only waste that needs immediate disposal will be accepted. If you do not have County-provided or private trash collection and need to dispose of trash at the Transfer Station, DO NOT bring any other waste such as construction debris, bulky/large items, or large amounts of trash from cleaning your house or property (e.g. spring cleaning).
  - o Recycling/trash collection – normal schedule for county collection
  - o For private hauler trash collection, please contact them directly for any collection changes.

Transportation

- **Montgomery County Ride On** –All fares are suspended. Operating on reduced Essential Service plan seven days a week to support medical providers, first responders, and workers critical to emergency efforts. To protect our drivers, please board through rear doors. Do not take any public transportation if you do not feel well.
- **Metrorail** – **Essential travel only!**
  - o As of March 26, several METRO stations are closed with limited service hours to conserve cleaning supplies and due to low ridership. Click here for information.
- **Metrobus** – Emergency Schedule. **Essential travel only!**
  - o Bus service is greatly reduced to 20 routes to prevent crowding and ensure areas are not cut off.
  - o IMPORTANT: Bus operators are granted the authority to bypass bus stops to maintain safe social distancing aboard the vehicle. Digital signs, websites, apps and timetables will NOT reflect accurate information about bus schedules. Board bus through rear doors.
- All Metro Access subscription trips are cancelled until further notice. Customers with a critical need to travel should make a separate reservation calling 301-562-5360 (TTY 301-588-7535) or via the online reservation system.
- **Capital Bikeshare:** is offering a program to give essential workers, including those in the healthcare, food service, and food retailer industries, free 30-day bikeshare memberships. Through May 1, eligible essential workers can sign up through their employer to access unlimited 30-minute trips on our bikes for 30 days. Reach out to herobikes@Lyft.com if you are an essential worker and want to participate in the program.
- **Lyft Electric Scooters** is offering free 30-day memberships for essential workers. Interested employers and employees should email HeroBikes@Lyft.com a request to enroll.
- **EScooters** – Lime has paused service and deployment.
- **Highway Tolling** - all-electronic (cashless) tolling in effect. All drivers should KEEP MOVING through toll plazas without stopping. Cash payment lanes will operate as video tolling (cashless) lanes. Motorists who usually pay with cash will be mailed a Notice of Toll Due for the cash toll rate.

PUBLIC DUTIES

Taxes

- The Maryland and Federal Income Tax <u>filing *and* payment</u> deadlines have both been extended to July 15. You are encouraged to file immediately if you anticipate a refund.
- For Maryland tax returns: Those who file paper state income tax returns should make sure their Maryland tax returns are postmarked by April 10th to ensure processing. The State agency will temporarily stop processing paper tax returns on April 15 in an effort to keep essential employees safe amid the spread of COVID-19.

July 15	(Update April 14) Comptroller Peter Franchot announced the extension of business-related tax filing deadlines for a second time. The new extension to July 15th applies to certain business returns with due dates during the months of February, March, April, and May 2020 for businesses filing sales and use tax, withholding tax, and admissions & amusement tax, as well as alcohol, tobacco and motor fuel excise taxes, tire recycling fee and bay restoration fee returns. The deadline for June payments of the alcohol tax and admissions & amusement tax, which are due on the 10th day of the month, have also been extended to July 15. Business taxpayers who file and pay by the extended due date will receive a waiver of interest and penalties. Businesses that have already submitted April SUT may request a refund of their payment by emailing taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov
July 15	Deadline for Maryland individual, corporate, pass through entity, and fiduciary income tax payments, as well as March quarterly estimated payments
October 15	Deadline for filing Maryland income tax returns if a federal extension was filed.

- For assistance with Maryland tax filings, email taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov or 1-800-MD-TAXES.

Economic Impact Payments

- Eligible taxpayers will receive Economic Impact Payments of up to $1,200 for individuals and $2,400 for married couples and up to $500 for each qualifying child. Check the status of your payment at IRS.gov/EIP
- Payments will be automatically distributed via direct deposit to your bank account. If the IRS does not have your banking information or if you did not file income taxes for last year, visit IRS.gov/EIP to update your bank account or mailing address.
- Please do not call the IRS. For more information, go to: https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus

Voting

- **2020 Presidential Primary Election** - Per the Maryland Governor's proclamation, the Maryland State primary is postponed until June 2.
  - The election will be conducted primarily by mail-in ballot. Registered voters will be mailed a ballot. Voters do not need to request an absentee ballot. The ballot will come with prepaid postage. No stamp will be needed.
  - Voters are urged to return their ballot as soon as possible. Those who wait until the deadline to return their ballot are encouraged to use a Board of Elections drop box at one of the locations listed below instead of creating long lines to vote in person. Ballots deposited in these drop boxes will not require a postmark.

- - - Montgomery County Board of Elections (currently available 24/7)18753 N. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg
    - Silver Spring Civic Building (to be installed by 5/21/2020)One Veterans Place, Silver Spring
    - Praisner Community Recreation Center (to be installed by 5/21/2020)14906 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville
    - Activity Center at Bohrer Park   (to be installed by 5/21/2020)506 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg
    - Germantown Community Recreation Center (to be installed by 5/21/2020)18905 Kingsview Road, Germantown
    - Rockville City Hall (to be installed by 5/21/2020)111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville
- There will be 4 in-person voting sites on election day, June 2, in Montgomery County for those voters who cannot vote by mail. Early voting has been canceled.
- Voters who have moved, who are temporarily away from home, or who have not received a ballot by Friday, May 15, 2020, should visit the voter lookup tool of the Maryland State Board of Elections or text CHECK to 77788 to verify their information and request a ballot.
- The deadline to register to vote, or to change your residential address or party affiliation, is Wednesday, May 27, 2020. To verify your voter registration, visit the voter lookup tool of the Maryland State Board of Elections or text CHECK to 77788.The Special election for 7th District Congressional Seat will be held through vote by mail – 7th District only. All voters in the 7th Congressional District will receive a ballot for this election. To be counted, ballots for this election must be postmarked on or before April 28, 2020.

HELPING OTHERS

- To **Volunteer** as well as to donate funds and materials, we encourage you to go to the Montgomery County Volunteer Center COVID-19 Response website: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/ Search for opportunities for "Emergency Response" and thank you!!
- The **State of Maryland** also has a place to **volunteer** at https://governor.maryland.gov/marylandunites/
- For **Food Donations**, please contact Manna Food Center at https://www.mannafood.org/covidresponse/ or Nourish Now at 240-499-6380.
- For **Blood Donations**, go to https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive to schedule an appointment.
- **Donations of Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, wipes, N95 masks) –** please complete the online form .
- **To Sell Personal Protective Equipment** to the county, please email procure@montgomerycountymd.gov
- **Healthcare professionals** who would like to volunteer in support of the medical mass surge staffing, please register for the Medical Reserve Corps here.
- **Social Connection –** Empowering the Age's **Sharing Smiles** connects adults to youth in response to social isolation from COVID-19. Go to https://empoweringtheages.org/sharing-smiles/
- **Make Face Masks –** go to www.mocomaskmakers.com for information on how to help.
- Unlike in the past, personally showing up with baked goods and meals for first responders is highly discouraged. Please consider donating to their respective foundations instead.
- **Helping our Hospitals** – Please check websites for what our local hospitals need and what they do not need:
  - Adventist Health Care
  - Holy Cross Health
  - MedStar Health

OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Everyone is encouraged to be smart when seeking information on the internet. The following are other reliable sites to obtain helpful information and resources:

State of Maryland
- **https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/**
- **https://governor.maryland.gov/marylandunites/**
- **COVID-19 Information in 10 different languages:** https://goci.maryland.gov/covid19-translations/
- **Maryland Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rumor Control:** https://govstatus.egov.com/md-coronavirus-rumor-control

Centers for Disease Control – an excellent resource on how to protect yourself & what to do if you think you are sick https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html and https://www.coronavirus.gov/

Montgomery County Government
https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus.html

Rockville Economic Development, Inc – Resources for Rockville Businesses
https://rockvilleredi.org/covid-19-resources/

Universities at Shady Grove – Community Resources
https://shadygrove.umd.edu/student-services/csef/community-resources/covid19-resources

World Health Organization
Mythbusters: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/73421/